

3
Dedham, May 27th 1865.

C. K. Whipple, Esq.,

My Dear Mr. Whipple,

96 I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 26th instant, covering a Resolution purporting to have been unanimously passed by the Executive Committee of the American A. S. Society, expressing its "grateful sense of the long service of Mr. Johnson & myself as Editors of the National A. S. Standard, & of the eminent ability & devotedness with which it has been rendered." This Resolution I beg leave respectfully to return to you for the following reasons:

I. While I should place a due value on the individual good opinion of most of the Ladies & gentlemen, with whom I have any personal acquaintance, in whose behalf you write, you & they must pardon me if I say that I put none whatever on any they may express in the corporate capacity, in which they profess to act. Regarding as I do the existence of an Anti-Slavery Society at this time as not merely an anachronism and an absurdity, but an impossibility, I cannot regard the Ladies & gentlemen in question, officially as Non-existent & the Society they profess to represent as a Non-entity. Holding these views, I can not

consent, by accepting this Resolution, at once to deny them & to stultify myself.

II. But, secondly, I could not consent, under any circumstances, to accept this Resolution as a substitute for the one offered at the Annual Meeting and referred to the Executive Committee by a ~~substituting~~ ^{substituting} ~~motion~~ ^{motion} of me, in ignorance I am sure of the fact that that reference was intended as a virtual rebuke & a tacit censure of the Editor of the Standard. I did not expect or desire any formal expression by the Society of its approval of my conduct as Editor; but as censure and discriminating a tribute having been proposed, I can not regard the proffered substitute as worth my acceptance. I cannot, indeed, understand how it is that even this modified need of praise should be ungenerously awarded by those ladies & gentlemen, if all or any of them hold the opinion of the editorial conduct of the Standard expressed by one of their number Mr. Phillips, in his ~~speech~~ ^{speech} ~~at the~~ ^{at the} ~~meeting~~ ^{meeting} which took place on the second day of the Annual Meeting, of which the following is an extract:

My friend says all the loyal papers talk as well as THE STANDARD. They have done so for two years, and that is my complaint. As the organ of the Executive Committee, I originally instructed that paper, to announce such truth and illustrate such principle as would lift the community; I never instructed it to stand on the level of the Republican party. Now, my charge against THE STANDARD, which has no tinge of personal bitterness whatever, is, that when the community were ready for the general idea of emancipation by the War Power, THE STANDARD was—but it indicated nothing more. I went about and tried to hound the President into the proclamation of Emancipation. After a while THE STANDARD advocated it. When I had gotten it, I instantly changed my base, and demanded of the people an Amendment of the Constitution. THE STANDARD staid where it was. It was some time before it took ground in favor of the Amendment of the Constitution. Well, when the Amendment was granted, I instantly changed my base again. Having clutched from the Nation the parchment, I wanted a guarantee behind it—suffrage, the crippling of State Rights [applause] Now, I ~~say~~ that the duty of THE STANDARD was, all this while, to have kept in the van of the Nation, and not to advocate only what four men out of five or seven men out of ten were ready for.

To these charges, ~~they~~^{they} urged with an audacity
of statement & an unscrupulousness of assertion
truly amazing, ~~have been brought repeatedly before~~
~~a fair & candid Standard by Mr. Phillips with every~~
~~most effective emphasis.~~ ~~Further~~ Mr. Johnson
has interposed a flat denial of their truth in general
& in particular & defies the proof. If they have
the slightest foundation in fact, instead of deserving
the faintest praise we should merit the severest
& most unqualified condemnation. I forbear
to comment on the ~~display~~ ^{display} of your principal display
of morbid egotism & diseased vanity, which this
~~paper~~^{paper}
~~extract~~ contains. It would be laughable were
it not so sad.

I speak only for myself, having had
no opportunity of consultation with Mr. Johnson.
He will answer for himself. Should the Reso-
lution I return be published in the Standard,
according to its terms, I ask that this letter be
also printed.

I avail myself of this opportunity
to renew to yourself, personally, the assurances
of the warmest respect with which I am
very faithfully yours,

Edmund Quincy.

